

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) this week received the Commander's Public Service award for his work on the Air Force Board of Visitors (USAFA BoV). The Board provides oversight of the morale, discipline, social climate, curriculum, instruction, and other matters relating to the Air Force Academy. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed DeFazio to the Board of Visitors in July of 2007 and he served until July of 2009. DeFazio also served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves from June, 1967 - March, 1971 and left with the rank of 2nd Lt.

The following statement was released by the Air Force regarding the award:

"[Congressman Peter A. DeFazio's] leadership, unwavering loyalty, and dedication to the Academy's mission were instrumental in supporting the Academy and maintaining the Board's active role in addressing important USAF issues. While serving as Chairman of the BoV's Infrastructure and Resources Subcommittee, Congressman DeFazio championed increased awareness and helped ensure adequate resources were available for the Academy to renovate its facilities...The Board of Visitors, with Congressman DeFazio's selfless support, directly enhanced the production of second lieutenants of character for the United States Air Force. The Commander's Public Service Award is presented to Congressman Peter A. DeFazio for his astute advice and diplomacy to the senior leaders of the United States and the United States Air Force."

Congressman DeFazio responded with the following statement:

"I am honored to have both served on the Air Force Board of Visitors and to be selected for the

Commander's Public Service Award," said DeFazio. "I greatly enjoyed my time on the board and was grateful for the opportunity to work closely with the Air Force Academy to ensure that it is a forward-looking, innovative and effective institution which provides the best climate possible to train cadets. I have been continually impressed by the upstanding men and women who attend the Academy and I am proud to have contributed to their education."